Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-51 (canceled)

52. (previously presented) A method of enhancing growth in plants compared to untransformed plants or plant seeds comprising:

providing a transgenic plant or plant seed transformed with a transgene comprising a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:7, residues 1-98 of SEQ ID NO:3, or residues 137-204 of SEQ ID NO:3; and

growing the transgenic plant or transgenic plant produced from the transgenic plant seed under conditions effective to enhance plant growth.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the DNA molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:6, or SEQ ID NO:8.

54. (previously presented) A method according to claim 52, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of dicots and monocots.

55. (previously presented) A method according to claim 54, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of rice, wheat, barley, rye, cotton, sunflower, peanut, corn, potato, sweet potato, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, endive, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, melon, strawberry, grape, raspberry, pineapple, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane.

56. (previously presented) A method according to claim 54, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of rose, *Saintpaulia*, petunia, pelargonium, poinsettia, chrysanthemum, carnation, and zinnia.

57. (previously presented) A method according to claim 52, wherein a transgenic plant is provided.

58. (previously presented) A method according to claim 52, wherein a transgenic plant seed is provided.

59. (previously presented) A method according to claim 52 further comprising:

applying the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein to the plant to enhance growth of the plant.